

Barbara DuVan-Clarke (State Bar No. 259268)
BDC@blackstonepc.com
Danielle Ling GruppChang, (State Bar No. 313881)
dgruppchang@blackstonepc.com
P.J. Van Ert (State Bar No. 234858)
pjvanert@blackstonepc.com
Annabel Blanchard (State Bar No. 258135)
ablanchard@blackstonepc.com
BLACKSTONE LAW, APC
8383 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 745
Beverly Hills, California 90211
Tel: (310) 622-4278 / Fax: (855) 786-6356

Attorneys for Plaintiffs
CHRISTOPHER VANDYCKE,
JOHN E. SMITH, and MICHAEL TAPIA

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA**

CHRISTOPHER VANDYCKE, JOHN E.
SMITH, and MICHAEL TAPIA, individually
and on behalf of others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

PACIFIC COAST SUPPLY, LLC, and DOES
1 through 25, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: 23CV027855

Honorable Michael Markman
Department 23

**DECLARATION OF PLAINTIFF
MICHAEL TAPIA IN SUPPORT OF
MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF CLASS
ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT**

Complaint Filed:	February 14, 2023
FAC Filed:	May 19, 2023
SAC Filed:	June 30, 2025
Trial Date:	Not Set

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8

1. I am over the age of eighteen (18) and a resident of the State of California. I am one of the named plaintiffs in the above-captioned case. I have personal knowledge of the facts and statements set forth in this declaration, and if called upon to testify, I could and would competently testify thereto.
2. I was employed by Defendant Pacific Coast Supply, LLC (“Defendant”) as an hourly-paid, non-exempt material handler from approximately July 2021 to approximately February 2023.
3. Because I thought the practices at Defendant may not be lawful, I decided to seek legal advice about my work experiences at Defendant and about filing a lawsuit to obtain relief for my grievances. I contacted Blackstone Law, APC and spoke with their attorneys. I wanted to take steps to make sure Defendant was held accountable for not properly compensating its employees for all hours worked and for non-compliant meal and rest breaks. After speaking with the attorneys, I also investigated class and representative action lawsuits on my own. Thereafter, I further consulted with the attorneys at Blackstone Law, APC about my situation, class actions, and what it meant to join a class action so that I understood what I was considering doing.
4. I have regularly conferred with my attorneys regarding the case as part of my responsibilities as a class representative. This process included searching for and providing documents concerning my employment with Defendant, answering any questions my attorneys had about the documents, providing information regarding the company’s practices and the duties of other hourly-paid and/or non-exempt employees, and helping my attorneys develop a strategy as to what additional documents and information they could seek to obtain from Defendant.
5. I routinely checked in with my attorneys and their staff to make sure that they had all of my most current information and any additional information that I had obtained. I made myself available to answer any questions my attorneys had about Defendant’s practices and treatment of its employees whenever they needed me. I responded to them as quickly as possible and gave them as much information as I could.
6. I understood that in the event this matter did not settle and proceeded with trial, I would

1 need to be in court to participate in the trial. I was ready to perform that role, as well as fulfill any
2 responsibilities that are necessary for this lawsuit.

3 7. I know that I took a sizeable risk by bringing and pursuing this lawsuit for several
4 reasons. First, I understood that if I lost, I would potentially have to pay the costs in the lawsuit. I
5 also understood there was a risk of losing any job and/or income due to the time that I would have to
6 spend fulfilling my responsibilities in this matter, including having to attend the trial, if needed. In
7 contrast, the other employees who will be receiving money from this lawsuit did not have to file a
8 claim or take the risk that I took in joining this action as a named plaintiff.

9 8. I reviewed the settlement agreement, discussed the settlement agreement with my
10 attorneys, and asked them questions before signing it.

11 9. I believe that I have done everything that my attorneys have asked of me and tried, to
12 the best of my ability, to seek relief for the Class. I have spent approximately 40 hours participating
13 in this case as described above. I believe my efforts helped get the result obtained in this case.

14 10. I understand that any resolution of this lawsuit on a class wide basis is subject to court
15 approval, and any settlement must be designed in the best interest of the Class as a whole. At all times
16 throughout the course of this litigation I have considered the interests of the Class and put them before
17 my own personal interests.

18 11. I understand that incentive or enhancement awards are discretionary and intended to
19 compensate named plaintiffs for: the quality and quantity of the work done on behalf of the class and
20 other employees, the financial and/or reputational risk undertaken in bringing the class action, and an
21 acknowledgment of the benefits resulting from the representative's actions. I believe my work in this
22 matter is meritorious on these points for the reasons set forth above.

23 12. I respectfully request that the Court approve and award me an Enhancement Payment
24 in the amount of \$ 15,000 for my efforts and active participation in the case. Taking into consideration
25 the time that I dedicated to this case, I believe that this amount is reasonable.

26 ///

27 ///

28 ///

13. I am not related to anyone associated with Blackstone Law, APC.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on 07/03/2025, at Ceres, California.


Michael Tapia